

# Three Plants Here Routing Recession

Today was payday at the National Supply company plant here where the current business recession has so far failed to dent one of the largest payrolls in history. All departments are working at capacity and J. D. Spaulding, assistant to the vice-president, declared that the heavy production schedule is expected to continue through the year.

Further encouraging news came this morning from the Columbia Steel company, whose officials announced that all departments of the Torrance plant would be operating next week on limited schedules.

Activity in the oil industry is further reflected here by capacity production at the International Derrick and Equipment company. More than 350 men are now working on full-time schedules at this plant, according to reports.

Rushing Texas Oil Expo Exhibit  
From the National Supply's employment office, directed by Tom McGuire, comes word that the plant has all the men it needs and no additional man-power is being employed at the present time.

"There is no recession in sight for us," Spaulding declared. "Business is good and we expect a very good run this year." Altho National Supply officials are somewhat perturbed by the Mexican expropriation of oil fields, plants and equipment owned by foreign interests, they are confident that the disturbance to the world petroleum industry will be amicably settled in the near future.

National Supply units here are concentrating at the present time on getting out an elaborate display of new and improved oil machinery for the Petroleum Institute and Exposition to be held in Houston, Texas in May. The firm is planning the largest exhibit it has ever sent to that event.

## "Laguna Dominguez"

### New Name for Nigger Slough; Old Title's History Revealed

How the slough area now designated as Laguna Dominguez by the board of supervisors first got its old name of Nigger Slough was the subject of a special report filed with the board this week by Alfred Jones, county surveyor.

Many pioneer residents of the county were contacted in making the report, according to Jones' deputies, particularly the property owners in the immediate vicinity. There was no original Spanish name, but the area was known as Nigger Slough as far back as 1881, according to old county maps.

In 1869 a county map shows it as Laguna Dominguez. Negroes squatted on the land then and a Negro kept an inn near the slough where the stage stopped on its trip between San Pedro and Los Angeles. Large flocks of cranes formerly flew around the slough, it was said.

Agua Negra on Maps  
As to a choice of names, Dominguez Land company officials and others favor shortening the name to Laguna Dominguez, meaning Dominguez Lake. The California History and Landmarks club has considered Dominguez Lake for a permanent name, and Machado Lakké for the area commonly known as Bixby Slough.

Others contacted in preparing the report were Dr. Owen Coy, professor of California History at the University of Southern California, Hamilton H. Cotton of the Dominguez Land company, Victor Carson of the Carson Estate, Joseph Mesmer of Mesmer City and the Historical Society of Southern California.

The slough was designated on Spanish maps as Agua Negra, the surveyor's report stated.

### Spring Holiday Starts April 8

Easter or Spring vacation for students in all Torrance and Lomita schools begins with the close of the school day Friday, April 8, and lasts until Monday morning, April 18.

During the first three days of the holiday, Principal Thomas Elson of the high school will attend the state high school principals' convention in Los Angeles.

### FEWER FATALITIES

There were 99 fewer traffic deaths in California during the first two months of 1938 than during the corresponding period of 1937.

### County Hospital, Nation's Largest Will Reach Capacity in Three Years

Capacity of the huge Los Angeles county General Hospital will be reached by 1941 or 1942, according to a report to the board of supervisors today by Rex Thomson, superintendent of charities.

Thomson asked the board to appoint a committee to consider the situation and to make recommendations for additional space when the building is filled three or four years hence.

When the great structure, containing some 57 acres of floor space, was started more than 10 years ago it was estimated it would be adequate for 20 years hence, but the estimate will fall short by five or six

years, according to latest figures. The building is declared to be the largest single-unit hospital in the nation.

Already there is a shortage of space in the old section of the hospital, because some of the old units have been condemned, the supervisors were told in another report. Thomson reported that the hospital's patient population jumped from 2,421 to 2,780 during January.

This was considerably below the 1937 report for January, however, when number of patients reached 2,922, taxing facilities available. The February report has not yet been compiled.

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## Urge Housewives to Ask Solicitors for 'Blue Cards'

"It's going to be tough on chiselers in Torrance from now on," wrote Ed Ainsworth in his Los Angeles Times' "Along Camino Real" column Tuesday morning. Ainsworth was giving a brief sketch of the "Blue Card" plan now in force here—a system under which every solicitor for charities and advertising schemes and the like has to have a "Blue Card" before any merchant will discuss the matter with him.

"It is expected to end suddenly and completely—the fly-by-night type of solicitation with which every small community is afflicted," the Times writer said.

This welcome result will be attained, President Harvel Guttenfelder of the Torrance Retail Merchants' association said today, if everyone in Torrance—housewives as well as merchants, industrialists and professional people—will ask all solicitors for their identifying

Blue Card.

Four Out of 10  
"Already we have seen benefits to this system," he said, "and the Merchants' association and Chamber of Commerce now invites housewives to cooperate in this effort to curtail the income of persons, firms or groups whose offerings are of dubious value if not actually worthless."

Almost before the last delivery of The Herald, which contained a full account of the "Blue Card" method of investigating all methods to obtain funds under the guise of charity or advertising, was made last Thursday the first application for a "Blue Card" was made at the chamber office.

Since then about 10 requests for this identifying card have been received and investigated by the Merchants' association's "secret committee." Only four applications have been approved and "Blue Cards" issued to certify that the objective of the solicitor is deemed worthy of a hearing by anyone he or she interviews.

Is First Question Now  
"If the women of Torrance will back up us in our effort to put a stop to chiseling, everyone in the city will benefit," Guttenfelder said. "We will be able to conserve our funds and thus give greater support to worthwhile local projects and other endeavors which are of known value. We will help spread the report that Torrance is no place for charity racketeers."

A complete investigation by the "secret committee" is made of all requests for "Blue Cards." The applicant is asked to fill out a two-page information blank listing data pertaining to the "cut" he gets or his firm, association or charity receives from the gross income and

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## Opposition Greet Ravine Fair Site

Endorsement of Chavez Ravine in Elysian park as the site for the Pacific Mercado or permanent Los Angeles trade exposition last Thursday afternoon by the Citizens' Committee of 15 has aroused a storm of opposition in Los Angeles that will only be quieted by a voters' decision on the matter.

The committee's report failed to say anything whatever about that or any other location as a suitable site for the L. A. World's Fair of 1942, celebrating the 400th anniversary of the landing of Cabrillo. It was understood that the two events—Mercado and Fair—would be held on the same site. Backers of the Figueroa-Vermont-Normandie-Midway location for both projects near Torrance are hopeful that this site will get a place on the ballot—if Los Angeles voters are permitted to express a choice of Fair-Mercado locales.

Editorially, the L. A. Times commented on the selection of Chavez Ravine this week: "If the Mercado were all that were to be considered, as the committee was obliged to consider it, the Chavez site would still be open to grave objections in the minds of many. But when the site for the trade exposition must also be the site for the Cabrillo exposition, the total unsuitability

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## Apply Now For Absent Voter Ballot

From now until next Thursday, April 7, Torrance voters may take advantage of the absent voters' law and obtain ballots for the municipal election of April 12, according to City Clerk A. H. Bartlett.

Any registered voter who intends to be out of the city on election day or anyone who is unable because of physical disability to get to the polls is eligible to make application for an absent voter's ballot. April 7 is the last day for such application, and they must be in writing, addressed to the city clerk.

## CAMPAIGN IS QUIET HERE

Outside of a shower of personal cards that was growing into snowstorm proportions and considerable intensive "button-holing" on the part of the 19 candidates and their supporters, the municipal election campaign offered nothing that was newsworthy during the past week.

The Torrance Kiwanis club has invited all of the vote-seekers to attend and speak for one minute at a "night-before-election" program, April 11, at the club's regular dinner-session in Daniels cafe. Most of the candidates have indicated they will accept the invitation to attend as "paying guests" that night.

## Tourist Trade Total Told

Tourist volume in 1937 surpassed the all-time high total set in 1936 as 1,741,603 visitors poured into the state last year and spent approximately \$216,731,717, Don Thomas, managing director of the All-Year club informed members and officers of the boosting organization Monday night at the Clark hotel in Los Angeles.

If all the 1937 visitors had been here at one time, assembled in a concentrated area, they would have populated the cities of Los Angeles, Long Beach and Pasadena combined, Thomas said in outlining the activities of the All-Year club. Those attending the session from here were DeKalb Spurlin, who is chairman of one of the 15 district committees; Harvel Guttenfelder, member of the Harbor District committee, and L. J. Gilmeister, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce.

Director Thomas, in pointing out the great value of the tourist industry to Southern California and the need for maintaining it, said that the money spent here by visitors (including only those who first wrote the All-Year club directly in response to its advertising) reached a new high of \$55.12 for every \$1 invested for advertising, compared with \$43.09 last year.

Tourists spent more than \$24,700 an hour in Southern California throughout

## PETTY THIEVES AT SCHOOL FACE JUVENILE COURT

Several weeks of investigation of a large number of locker thefts at the high school boys' gym came to an end last week when one student-offender was caught "red-handed," and three or four others were linked to the petty thefts of clothing, gymnasium equipment and towels.

Similar thefts in the girls' gym quarters have occupied attention of school authorities over a period of weeks and these are expected to be solved shortly.

Principal Thomas Elson said, in the case of the worst offenders among the boys, police were asked to enter the matter and it is likely that the leaders will be held before juvenile court.

The principal declared that the petty thievery extended over a long period of time but despite every precaution and warning appeared to increase. Parents of the boy believed to be the leader of the gang who broke into the boys' gym to pilfer lockers and storerooms were warned last November that the student had been involved in similar offenses but made no effort to cooperate with school authorities to "straighten out that young fellow's line of thinking," Elson said.

## Elson to Speak On 'Problem Cases'

Using his experiences and extensive research as the background and source material for his talk, Principal Thomas Elson will speak on "In School Treatment of Problem Cases" at an area principals' meeting in Los Angeles April 4.

The Torrance high school head has also been asked to write an article on this subject for the next issue of "A.D.A.," a publication of the Los Angeles city school department of attendance. Elson is chairman of a committee studying "the problem student" for the purpose of drafting a plan of action to be followed by all Los Angeles city schools.

Several solutions have been offered to reduce such educational problems.

## Rubber Face



Robert Muslin, of Gardena, didn't know what a talent he had for twisting his face into "funny paper" characters until he missed his Sunday paper recently. He surprised and delighted his children with an impromptu performance, is now practicing up for more lucrative entertainment fields.

## Flower Grabbers Draw Complaints

Two Redondo Beach police officers have been watching the strip of the Hollywood Riviera that lies within that city's limits to halt persons from raiding the fields of lupine and other wild flowers that are now unfolding their colors near the ocean.

A representative of the Clifford E. Reid company, subdividers of the Riviera, made a complaint in Redondo this week about the vandalism occurring in that area. He said that many persons are trampling the flowers under foot and showing complete disregard of the state law protecting the blooms.

## Service Club Aid To Schools Top Of Dinner-Meet

An interesting presentation of the valuable assistance given Los Angeles city schools by service clubs was given last evening to over 400 members and guests at dinner-meeting of the Los Angeles City Schools Service Club, held in a Los Angeles restaurant.

The extensive program of vocational guidance, scholarship, awards, boys' work, assistance given underprivileged children, and various other activities sponsored by the service clubs was explained by Willard S. Ford, chief deputy superintendent of the L. A. city schools. Vieling Kersey, superintendent, acted as toastmaster.

Torrance was represented at the gathering by Dean L. Sears, vice-president of Kiwanis, who was the guest of Thomas Elson, principal of Torrance high school; and Grover C. Whyte, president of Torrance Rotary, who was a guest of Ray Casey of Polytechnic high school.

## Two More Wells Are Producing

Oil production from two deepened wells in the booming South Torrance field shifted from north of Sepulveda two blocks south to 231st and Pennsylvania this week as two more deep-sand projects were finished and put on the pump.

These were W. E. McCaslin's No. 2, reported flowing at an estimated 250 barrels of 27 degree gravity and Lakeside Oil's No. 1, which is doing 150 barrels of 26 degree gravity. Depths are 5,014 and 4,988 feet respectively.

Jack Doyle has started to run tubing at his project at his project at 230th and Narbonne and Tuesday night he started drilling out his Bond lease well at 229th and Narbonne after letting it stand cemented for more than a week.

Lease Agents Active  
Coast Line Oil is completing its McBride No. 1 from 5,008 feet near Narbonne and Sepulveda and Standard Oil has begun drilling operations on its Martin No. 1. This will be a deepening job to the lower formation. Woolner Oil has spudded No. 1.

Superior Oil's deepened producer on the north side of Sepulveda is holding up better than 250 barrels. Patton Oil's No. 2 across the street is standing cemented and Everett Grubbs is drilling his No. 1 deeper a block west. The original bottom of this well was 3,750 feet.

Property owners around Lomita boulevard and Walnut street were being interviewed this week by leasing agents from several oil companies, among them Fisher and Johnson. There is between 20 and 25 acres available in that neighborhood for oil exploration but as yet no reports of leases signed have been noted.

## SEDAN STOLEN

Elmer Riley's green Chevrolet was stolen from in front of Aubrey's poolhall last Sunday, according to police.

## Building Total for Quarter Nearly Two Million Here

### Construction of Assembly Hall Starts at High School



Their arrival almost coinciding with the first classroom bell, workmen arrived at the high school campus Monday morning to start preliminary operations leading to the construction of the main structural part of the \$100,000 assembly hall off Watson avenue. A building permit, issued

### Car Theft of Rings Amounts to About \$500

Rings, valued at approximately \$500, and a small amount of cash were stolen from a parked but unlocked car in the alley between the Civic Auditorium and the Craven apartments sometime between 12 o'clock noon and 10:20 p. m. last Friday, according to a report filed with police.

Victim of the theft, one of the largest of several wholesale robberies here in the past few months, was Isabel Jenkins of Hermosa Beach. She told police she lost her purse containing a white gold diamond ring containing a three-quarter karat stone and 16 smaller diamonds, one of which was loose and wrapped in a bit of paper, a black onyx with diamond ring and \$1.03 in change.

### Two More Wells

Has Large Stage  
Many large blue prints, covering every detail of the building, and a voluminous sheet of specifications were filed with the city engineer's office last Friday when the contract firm applied for the building permit. This massive roll of drawings (Continued on Page 2-A)

### Flood Damage Cuts Land Cost for New Co. Jail

Congestion in the Los Angeles county jail is expected to be relieved shortly following the decision of the board of supervisors to purchase the 2,400-acre Dun ranch near Castaic, after the owner agrees to accept a \$25,000 deduction for flood damage.

April 19 now has been set for consummation of a lease with option to purchase. The supervisors agreed to lease the property for \$12,000 for one year, with the intention of buying it for \$160,000 at the end of the year, thereby making the total price \$172,000.

### Size of County Courthouse Bond Issue Under Study by Committee

How much Los Angeles county taxpayers will be asked to vote for a new county courthouse and county office building is expected to be determined shortly following selection of a site committee that is to hold its initial meeting next Tuesday in Los Angeles.

Last previous effort to obtain the voters' approval of a courthouse bond issue resulted in failure, after proponents had latched onto the measure a plan to erect branch county buildings in various sections of the county.

Purpose of the present committee is to select a site in or near the Civic Center and to advise the board of supervisors concerning the type and size of building needed.

It is proposed to ask the taxpayers to vote a bond issue, probably at the coming November general election, to match Federal funds to be allocated after the county has purchased the site.

Presiding Judge Ruben S. Schmidt, of Superior Court and Chairman Roger W. Jessup, of the board of supervisors, named the committee.

It consists of Superior Judges W. Turney Fox, Edward R. Brand and Judge Schmidt; Municipal Judges Newcomb Condee, LeRoy Dawson and Wilbur C. Curtis; Judge Ernest Wilson, trustee of the County Law Library; Judge Edwin P. Hahn; Roy Cederberg of Long Beach; Attorneys Roy V. Rhodes and George M. Breslin; County Planning Engineer W. E. Fox and Chief Mechanical Engineer R. E. Shoner.

### NEW RECORD IN SIGHT AS MONTH ENDS

Just missing an amazing \$2,000,000 mark by \$1,300, new construction in Torrance for the first quarter of the year ending tomorrow set an all-time record as the March building permits totaled \$154,250 to send the three-month figure soaring to \$1,998,630.

This investment in new construction during the first three months of 1938 is greater than any year's building total as far back as 1928 and indicates that the all-time construction figure of \$2,119,923 in 1927 may be surpassed this year. The 1937 full year's building total was \$1,066,057.

Granting of a \$100,000 building permit late last week to the Los Angeles city high school district for the new assembly hall gave the March total a big push into the six-figure class. A year ago building during March amounted to but \$52,875, while the first quarter of 1937 saw \$77,030 worth of construction started here.

Construction Detailed  
Other permits issued during the past week went to: Doyle Petroleum corporation for a wooden oil derrick at 2218 229th, \$5,000; Standard Oil company for a moved-in galvanized iron shed at 2446 Sepulveda, \$150; Hazel E. Paxman for a 12 by 20 foot addition to a house at 1428 Post, \$400; A. H. Silbago, co-owner of the Torrance Lumber company, for a five-room frame house and garage at 1412 Engracia, \$4,000; and to the Texas company for a steel oil derrick at 2452-229th, \$5,000.

Construction during March included three new residences, five garages, three alterations and repair jobs, four school buildings (three for Walteria's new bungalows) two industrial buildings, five oil derricks, one office building and one shed.

The comparative building total so far this year are:

	1938	1937
Jan.	\$1,811,950	\$41,030
Feb.	32,400	11,845
Mar.	154,250	52,875
TOTAL	\$1,998,600	\$77,030

During the past three months, new construction has included: 13 homes, nine garages, 15 oil derricks, 14 industrial buildings, 11 alterations and repair jobs, four schools, three office buildings, one shed and one trailer camp. New home construction in Torrance since January 1 has amounted to \$22,200.

The three largest building projects started here so far this year are: the new General Petroleum refinery plant, \$1,732,000; the new high school assembly hall, \$100,000, and the CBS-KTN radio transmitting station, \$40,000.

STATE STORM LOSS  
State parks and fish hatcheries were damaged to the extent of \$140,000 during the recent storms.

OPPOSE REPEAL  
Members of the California Real Estate association have recorded opposition to repeal of the three percent sales tax.